

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA:ARDAY/HLK

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA - MR. ATHERTON

P:MR. SISCO

S/S - J LHOGANSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 111175

NODIS

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, US

SUBJECT: YOUR FORTHCOMING MEETING WITH ASAD

REF: DAMASCUS 2753

1. IN ADDITION TO YOUR TALKING POINTS (ABOUT WHICH I AM COMMENTING IN A SEPARATE TELEGRAM) YOU SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS TO ASAD WHEN YOU MEET WITH HIM. IF MEETING IS MUCH DELAYED, POINTS ON LEBANON WOULD BECOME OUTDATED, AND WE WILL ATTEMPT TO KEEP YOU CURRENT ON THIS SUBJECT. IF IT APPEARS YOUR MEETING WILL BE MORE THAN A DAY OR TWO OFF, YOU SHOULD MAKE THE LEBANESE POINTS TO DAOUDI AS A ROUTINE REPORT OF BROWN'S ACTIVITIES.

2. BEGIN TALKING POINTS:

--THE SECRETARY WANTS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AMBASSADOR MURPHY'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ASAD ON OTHER SUBJECTS TO
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CALL TO PRESIDENT ASAD'S ATTENTION SOME INTERESTING AND

SIGNIFICANT COMMENTS MADE PUBLICLY TO ISRAELIS BY SENATOR JAVITS AFTER THE SENATOR'S RECENT VISIT TO DAMASCUS AND OTHER ARAB CAPITABLS. SENATOR JAVITS TOLD THE ISRAELIS THAT, IN HIS CONTACTS WITH PRESIDENT ASAD AND OTHER ARAB LEADERS, HE HAD FOUND NO APPETITE FOR WAR. THE ARAB

LEADERS, HE SAID, WERE RATIONAL MEN PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE EXISTENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL. HE CONVEYED TO THE ISRAELIS HIS IMPRESSION THAT THE TIME WAS RIPE FOR MOVEMENT ON AN OVERALL PEACE SETTLEMENT. THE SECRETARY THOUGHT THAT THESE COMMENTS, COMING TO THE ISRAELIS FROM SENATOR JAVITS, WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO PRESIDENT ASAD, BUT HE ALSO WANTED TO MENTION IT AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE TREND IN AMERICAN OPINION TO WHICH HE HAS SPOKEN BEFORE TO THE PRESIDENT. IF THIS TREND CONTINUES--AND THIS DEPENDS TO AN IMPORTANT DEGREE ON THE ARABS THEMSELVES--THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL BE IN A STRONGER POSITION NEXT YEAR TO MAKE THE ALL-OUT EFFORT FOR A SETTLEMENT THAT WE HAVE COMMITTED OURSELVES TO.

--FINALLY, THE SECRETARY WOULD LIKE TO BRING PRESIDENT ASAD UP TO DATE REGARDING OUR ACTIVITIES IN LEBANON. SINCE AMBASSADOR BROWN'S RETURN TO BEIRUT MAY 1, HE HAS TALKED TO JUMBLATT AND TO A NUMBER OF OTHER POLITICAL LEADERS. HE HAS TAKEN A VERY STRONG LINE WITH ALL OF THEM, IN PARTICULAR WITH JUMBLATT, THAT THE FIGHTING MUST END AND THAT THE ELECTIONS BE HELD WITHOUT DELAY. HE NOTED TO JUMBLATT THAT HE HAD EARLIER PRESSED THE CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP STRONGLY ON THE NEED FOR AVOIDING DELAY. REGARDING THE FIGHTING, BROWN TOLD JUMBLATT THAT THE VIABILITY OF LEBANON WAS AT STAKE.

--BROWN HAS ALSO TALKED AGAIN WITH PRIME MINISTER KARAME ALONG THE SAME LINES. HE TOLD HIM, AS HE HAD TOLD JUMBLATT, THAT IN HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD DURING HIS CONSULTATION IN WASHINGTON THE PRESIDENT HAD EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN ABOUT LEBANON AND HAD BEEN FULLY BRIEFED REGARDING IT. BROWN STRESSED TO KARAME THAT HE HAD NOT RETURNED FROM WASHINGTON WITH ANY SPECIFIC PLAN, THAT HE WAS SEEKING THE ADVICE AND VIEWS OF THE PRINCIPAL PARTIES

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AND WAS URGING THAT THERE BE NO FURTHER DELAY IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS. HE HAS BEEN SCRUPULOUS IN NOT EXPRESSING A VIEW ON THE SELECTION OF A PRESIDENT.

--AMBASSADOR BROWN REPORTS THAT AS OF MAY 5, SECURITY SEEMED TO HAVE IMPROVED IN LEBANON AND THAT IF THIS CONTINUES IT MIGHT ENHANCE THE CHANCES OF THE ELECTIONS BEING HELD ON MAY 8. THE RANDOM FIRING WHICH HAD KILLED

SO MANY PEOPLE SEEMED IN PARTICULAR TO HAVE DIED DOWN. HE
IS NONETHELESS CONCERNED THAT THE REJECTIONISTS OR OTHER
FRINGE ELEMENTS MIGHT ATTEMPT TO PREVENT THE ELECTION
BY STIMULATING ANOTHER FLARE-UP OF FIGHTING ON MAY 7.

--BROWN EXPECTS TO TALK TO THE CHRISTIAN MARONITE LEADER--

SHIP, PERHAPS MAY 6, MAKING ESSENTIALLY THE SAME POINTS TO
THEM AS HE HAS TO THE OTHERS. END TALKING POINTS. SISCO

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